

OGC REVIEW COMPLETED

9 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Appropriation Procedures

1. Mr. Saunders and I talked to Lyle Fisher of the Comptroller General's Office on Monday, 7 March, to obtain his views on a proposal that Agency funding for Fiscal Year 1956 be carried out by utilizing carryover of 1953 and 1954 unobligated but unexpired funds together with the reserve for 1955. We explained the reason for wanting this as increasing the security of our funding and incidentally reducing the new authorization for Fiscal Year 1956 by [REDACTED]

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2. Mr. Fisher was somewhat doubtful whether he could agree with the Bureau of the Budget's suggestion that the committee authorize all funds now or hereafter made available as being on a no-year basis, but after discussion he said he was willing to recommend to the Comptroller General that it be done as proposed above for Fiscal Year 1956 alone. He said he must clear this with the Comptroller General, however, in view of the fact that he was new to the job and not yet confirmed and might have some reservations, particularly as Mr. Fisher was not prepared to say that there was clear-cut authorization in our statute or any other statute for such a move.

3. Mr. Fisher called me the afternoon of 8 March and said he had discussed the matter with the Comptroller General and the Assistant Comptroller General and they were not prepared to accept our proposal in the light of the absence of any specific legal authority. He did say they were perfectly prepared to consider appropriate wording to be adopted in general legislation which would carry out our thoughts. I asked him if it would be all right in our hearing on Thursday, 10 March, if the committee brought up the problem of carryover, to say that the Comptroller General did not believe there was clear-cut legal authority but was willing to consider and cooperate on developing such statutory authority. Mr. Fisher said this was completely in line with their thoughts. I said I would inform him of any developments and that,

in any case, we would not go for any legislation that did not have their complete approval.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

cc: DD/S
Comptroller